

## Message Text

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72

ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 L-02 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12

NEA-09 RSC-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /075 R

DRAFTED BY IO/LABW:RCHEATER:OF

APPROVED BY IO:RDMOREY

S/IL:DGOOD

EA:RWALKINSHAW

LABOR:JQUACKENBUSH

----- 012530

R 231728Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 016069

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, AORG, AS

SUBJECT: ILO - AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN CHAIRSHIP OF

GOVERNING BODY

REF: MELBOURNE 66

1. REFTEL INDICATES GOA INTEREST IN NOMINATING ITS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA, AMBASSADOR HAL COOK, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF ILO GOVERNING BODY.

2. CHAIRSHIP OF GOVERNING BODY HAS ALWAYS BEEN HELD BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF A GOVERNMENT THAT HOLDS FULL, VOTING MEMBERSHIP IN GOVERNING BODY. CHAIRMAN IS NORMALLY ELECTED DURING THE LAST WEEK IN JUNE AND SERVES FOR ONE YEAR. DURING THE 1975-76 TERM, IT WILL BE ASIA'S TURN TO HOLD THE OFFICE, AND AUSTRALIA IS A MEMBER OF THE ILO'S ASIAN REGION.

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3. MANDATE OF PRESENT GOVERNING BODY EXPIRES IN JUNE 1975,  
AND THERE WILL BE AN ELECTION IN MID-JUNE, PRIOR TO  
ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, TO DETERMINE COMPOSITION OF GOVERNING  
BODY DURING 1975-78 PERIOD. A GOVERNMENT HOLDING AN  
ELECTIVE SEAT, AS AUSTRALIA DOES, NORMALLY, STEPS DOWN  
AFTER ONE TERM AND MAKES WAY FOR ANOTHER GOVERNMENT FROM  
THE SAME GEOGRAPHIC REGION. AUSTRALIA IS CURRENTLY A FULL,  
VOTING MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING BODY, AND NORMAL PRACTICE

WOULD CALL FOR GOA TO RETIRE IN JUNE IN FAVOR OF ANOTHER  
ASIAN MEMBER. IF THIS PRACTICE IS FOLLOWED, COOK WOULD  
NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AT ANY TIME  
DURING 1975-78 PERIOD, SINCE HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT THEN  
BE A MEMBER OF GOVERNING BODY.

4. DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE  
INITIATED WITH GOA, BUT IF GOA RAISES IT, YOU MAY POINT  
OUT ABOVE-DESCRIBED PATTERN OF PROCEDURE AND ASK WHETHER  
GOA PLANS TO SEEK A SECOND CONSECUTIVE TERM AS A FULL,  
VOTING MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND ASK IF IT HAS  
CONSULTED OTHER MEMBERS OF ILO ASIAN REGIONAL CAUCUS  
TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF CAUCUS SUPPORT FOR THIS ACTION  
AND FOR COOK'S CANDIDACY. IN ILO GOVERNING BODY CHAIR-  
MANSHIP ELECTIONS, USG CUSTOMARILY SUPPORT REGIONAL  
CAUCUS CHOICE. KISSINGER

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